



News Release

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Washington revokes license of company linked to contaminated products

Company can no longer ship medications to state

OLYMPIA — The company that made contaminated medications linked to 36 deaths and 541 illnesses in 19 states has had its license to operate in the state of Washington revoked. The Washington State Board of Pharmacy and the Department of Health revoked the non-resident pharmacy license of the New England Compounding Center (NECC). No illnesses or deaths linked to NECC products have been reported in Washington.

NECC surrendered its Massachusetts license, and agreed to the Washington license revocation, which was based on the company's failure to maintain a license in good standing in another state. The company can no longer provide drugs intended for use in Washington.

On October 6, NECC recalled all products made in 2012 including medications shipped to Washington. The Department of Health, the Board of Pharmacy, and local public health agencies helped the Federal Drug Administration (FDA) and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) by notifying medical facilities to contact all patients who received an injectable product shipped by NECC since May 21, 2012.

In November, the FDA announced that two additional NECC products were contaminated with bacteria and two other products were contaminated with fungus. These products were among the products included in the earlier recall. While none of the products initially found to be contaminated had been shipped to Washington, some of the four additional products were shipped to several facilities here. State and local public health agencies contacted those facilities to let them know that they had received potentially contaminated products, even though those products were included in the recall. The FDA and CDC continue to investigate the situation.

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